From: Tavlarides, Mark < mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:57 PM

To: Tavlarides, Mark < mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>

Subject: Blinken Tweet on Azerbaijan

Good afternoon,

BGR Group represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. I wanted to alert you to Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent call with Azerbaijan's President, Ilham Aliyev. Blinken <u>thanked</u> Azerbaijan for its marshalling of humanitarian assistance for Ukraine, and the two spoke on other efforts Azerbaijan is taking to ensure stability and peace in the region.

As you are keenly aware, Russia's unfounded aggression against Ukraine is drawing a stark line between those nations that support international order, and those that view sovereignty and stability as afterthoughts. Azerbaijan has looked on with concern as Russia has sought to spread its malign influence, and is standing in solidarity with the U.S., EU, and other nations in their efforts to support Ukraine and stand up to Russia's ambitions. Azerbaijan has already mobilized significant humanitarian assistance for Ukraine – one of the only non-NATO former-Soviet countries to do so – and stands ready to facilitate energy flows into Europe to help reduce the leverage Russia builds through its oil exports.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or would like to engage further with the Embassy on their efforts to support Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty.

All my best, Mark

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